

The specification has been amended to identify Figure 1 which shows serum β -carotene levels with and without piperine treatment. The amendment finds support in original claim 1.

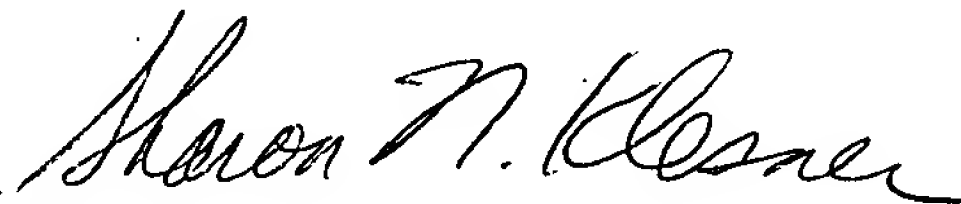
Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly enabling only for claims limited to the composition containing a therapeutically effective amount, nutritional materials in therapeutically nutritionally effective amounts, and method claims directed to for those in need thereof. By the above amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the nutritional material is in a nutritionally effective amount, and that the piperine is present in a therapeutically effective amount such that a daily dose consists of 0.004 to 0.08 mg/kg of body weight. Claim 16 has been amended essentially the same way, and additionally contains the phrase "the composition is administered to a subject in need thereof". The dose range inserted in the claim includes the dose for compositions for oral administration and for compositions for topical or parenteral use. The first paragraph of page 9 discloses these dose ranges. If the Examiner prefers, applicant is willing to amend the claims to have separate independent claims for topical vs. oral compositions and treatments.

In light of the above amendments, applicant submits that the claims are currently in condition for allowance. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to expedite disposition of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 14-1060, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time